



**Division of Fire Safety
Barre Regional Office**
1311 US Route 302, Suite 500
Barre, VT 05641-7301
www.vtfiresafety.org

Department of Public Safety

(phone) (802) 479-4434
(fax) (802) 479-4446

August 14th, 2014

Andrew Volansky
Cushman Design Group
P.O. Box 655
100 Mountain Road
Stowe, VT 05672

Re: Variance Request – Allowance to classify the main entrance stair as a convenience stair.

Building Location: 1613 Mountain Road
Stowe, VT 05672

Site: 7894
Project: 362839

Andrew Volansky,

I am in receipt of your variance request to allow the main entrance stair to the bowling lounge to be classified as a convenience opening in the new addition that will include 18 guest rooms on the second floor, 150 seat restaurant on the first floor and a bowling alley/lounge and mechanical space in the basement. A new NFPA 13 sprinkler system and automatic fire alarm will be a part of this project.

Variance Request:

To consider that the main entrance stair to the bowling lounge, on the lower level, be classified as a convenience opening. The project will include two additional one hour rated stair enclosures with adequate remoteness. Under the provisions of the 2012, Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code, Section 8, a variance may be granted, when the applicant can demonstrate evidence that strict compliance with the Code would entail practical difficulty, unnecessary hardship or otherwise found unwarranted and that any such variance or exemption secures the public safety and health and that the methods, means or practices proposed provide equal protection of the public safety and health.

Code Requirement: NFPA 101, 2012 Edition, Chapter 12.2.3.6.1 require

12.2.3.6 Main Entrance/Exit.

12.2.3.6.1 Every assembly occupancy shall be provided with a main entrance/exit.

12.2.3.6.2 The main entrance/exit width shall be as follows:

- (1) The main entrance/exit shall be of a width that accommodates two-thirds of the total occupant load in the following assembly occupancies:
 - (a) Dance halls
 - (b) Discotheques
 - (c) Nightclubs
 - (d) Assembly occupancies with festival seating



- (2) In assembly occupancies, other than those listed in 12.2.3.6.2(1), the main entrance/exit shall be of a width that accommodates one-half of the total occupant load.

12.2.3.6.3 The main entrance/exit shall be at the level of exit discharge or shall connect to a stairway or ramp leading to a street.

12.2.3.6.4 Access to the main entrance/exit shall be as follows:

- (1) Each level of the assembly occupancy shall have access to the main entrance/exit, and such access shall have the capacity to accommodate two-thirds of the occupant load of such levels in the following assembly occupancies:
- (a) Bars with live entertainment
 - (b) Dance halls
 - (c) Discotheques
 - (d) Nightclubs
 - (e) Assembly occupancies with festival seating
- (2) In assembly occupancies, other than those listed in 12.2.3.6.4(1), each level of the assembly occupancy shall have access to the main entrance/exit, and such access shall have the capacity to accommodate one-half of the occupant load of such levels.

12.2.3.6.5 Where the main entrance/exit from an assembly occupancy is through a lobby or foyer, the aggregate capacity of all exits from the lobby or foyer shall be permitted to provide the required capacity of the main entrance/exit, regardless of whether all such exits serve as entrances to the building.

12.2.3.6.6* In assembly occupancies where there is no well-defined main entrance/exit, exits shall be permitted to be distributed around the perimeter of the building, provided that the total exit width furnishes not less than 100 percent of the width needed to accommodate the permitted occupant load.

Variance Summary:

After review and consideration your variance request is **Approved**. This approval was based on the following;

- The close proximity of a one hour fire rated, enclosed stair. (\approx 12 feet)
- The total occupancy for the bowling lounge space has been calculated at 143.
- Standard egress signage and emergency lighting shall be provided.
- This project will provide a one hour fire separation between the main lobby and the airlock on the main level as well as at the ceiling to the guest suites on the upper level.

This variance does not preclude the construction permit process and does not allow for your project to begin until a construction permit has been issued for this project.

A separate Fire Alarm Permit Application with plans and fees must be submitted for approval by this Office.

Should you have any questions or concerns you can contact me directly at 802-479-7581 or by email at robert.sponable@state.vt.us

For the Division of Fire Safety,

Robert T. Sponable
Asst. State Fire Marshal
Barre Regional Manager

Cc: Paul Cerutti – Asst. State Fire Marshal
Stan Baranowski – Asst. State Fire Marshal
Regional Managers

Central Office: 1311 U.S. Route 302, Suite 600 (Berlin) Barre, VT 05641-2351 (802) 479-7561

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